

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

Via Electronic Transmission

Eugene Gessow
Division Director
Arkansas Division of Medical Services
State of Arkansas
Donaghey Plaza South
P.O. Box 1437
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Division Director Gessow:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in Arkansas' Medicaid program and what steps Arkansas takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how Arkansas' rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;

- Risperdal;
- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

Drug X, 2008

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

Drug X, 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000



Division of Medical Services

P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-401 · Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
501-682-8292 · Fax: 501-682-1197 · TDD: 501-682-6789



May 4, 2010

Via Electronic Transmission

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senator Grassley:

This letter is in response to your request for information dated April 21, 2010. The requested data is attached in the format you specified, which includes information based on date of payment in Calendar Years 2008 and 2009, respectively, amount paid by the Medicaid agency for the drugs, and total prescriptions for the top ten Medicaid prescribers. The total amount paid is the total amount reimbursed to the pharmacy for the dispensing of the medication in question.

Arkansas Medicaid's reimbursement for prescription drugs is based on Average Wholesale Price (AWP) minus 14% for brand name medications and AWP minus 20% for generic medications. There are state and federal upper limits on some brand name medications and their generic equivalents. In these cases, the medication is reimbursed at that upper limit.

I hope this information is helpful and responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eugene I. Gessow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eugene I. Gessow
Director

cc: Governor Mike Beebe
Frank Scott, Deputy Director, Governor's Office
U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln
U.S. Senator Mark Pryor
U. S. Representative Vic Snyder
U. S. Representative John Boozman
U. S. Representative Mike Ross
U. S. Representative Marion Berry

U.S. Senator Charles E. Grassley

May 4, 2010

Page 2

Arkansas State Senator Percy Malone, Senate Chair, Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
Arkansas State Representative Gregg Reep, House Chair, Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
John Selig, Director, Arkansas Department of Human Services
Janie Huddleston, Deputy Director, Arkansas Department of Human Services
Joseph Thompson, MD, Arkansas Surgeon General
Scott Harper, CMS Dallas Regional Office
David Laffoon, Director, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Arkansas Department
of Human Services
David Wroten, Executive Vice President, Arkansas Medical Society
Mark Riley, Executive Vice President, Arkansas Pharmacy Association

Abilify, 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1083675441	1,550	\$ 963,163
1669494092	1,311	\$ 719,482
1104822097	885	\$ 441,666
1588692453	698	\$ 286,201
1750373395	641	\$ 328,594
1871546051	622	\$ 349,171
1811084221	569	\$ 329,861
1376568139	566	\$ 281,793
1861498743	559	\$ 291,557
1871500314	539	\$ 273,362

Abilify, 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1669494092	1,593	\$ 886,919
1083675441	1,209	\$ 698,466
1871500314	937	\$ 468,547
1518098714	773	\$ 443,909
1811084221	740	\$ 389,902
1962465740	721	\$ 360,368
1750373395	711	\$ 365,515
1104822097	701	\$ 351,547
1861498743	630	\$ 298,052
1588692453	619	\$ 258,014

Geodon, 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1104822097	601	\$ 173,701
1750373395	317	\$ 128,193
1588692453	178	\$ 58,781
1952368425	169	\$ 65,538
1255522611	166	\$ 44,078
1427144005	146	\$ 56,700
1023197803	145	\$ 59,312
1598737249	136	\$ 69,576
1154423846	*134	\$ 52,756
1588748990	*134	\$ 41,093
1215978770	129	\$ 56,243

* Tie

Geodon, 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1104822097	412	\$ 133,837
1750373395	295	\$ 129,784
1023197803	*225	\$ 103,246
1588692453	*225	\$ 68,825
1992824148	184	\$ 50,979
1861498743	159	\$ 59,763
1437121373	150	\$ 70,901
1598737249	148	\$ 72,025
1417936147	143	\$ 67,691
1588748990	137	\$ 48,014
1255522611	129	\$ 37,218

*Tie

Seroquel, 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1669494092	879	\$ 283,475
1952383820	589	\$ 244,775
1801854195	509	\$ 202,971
1811084221	507	\$ 119,499
1417922261	483	\$ 122,441
1477617918	477	\$ 65,899
1083675441	475	\$ 216,762
1730299702	464	\$ 138,226
1588692453	423	\$ 113,363
1871546051	382	\$ 79,624

Seroquel, 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1669494092	955	\$ 302,943
1811084221	574	\$ 138,352
1790846947	521	\$ 150,177
1952383820	505	\$ 204,834
1477617918	485	\$ 80,724
1801854195	454	\$ 185,702
1699713347	447	\$ 143,122
1417922261	*445	\$ 114,681
1588692453	*445	\$ 134,389
1730299702	425	\$ 136,529
1861498743	404	\$ 135,578

*Tie

Zyprexa, 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1669494092	585	\$ 353,692
1215978770	512	\$ 435,209
1801854195	378	\$ 223,293
1104822097	256	\$ 227,803
1417936147	229	\$ 137,360
1255522611	219	\$ 84,135
1083675441	205	\$ 208,784
1770651408	177	\$ 106,384
1659324291	171	\$ 137,859
1508835646	170	\$ 96,859

Zyprexa, 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1669494092	442	\$ 313,731
1215978770	385	\$ 319,905
1194824771	327	\$ 177,267
1801854195	319	\$ 209,738
1861498743	201	\$ 139,145
1104822097	200	\$ 188,172
1417936147	187	\$ 103,050
1770651408	177	\$ 121,661
1245290816	174	\$ 157,073
1659324291	167	\$ 157,811

Risperdal (includes generic products), 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1700923208	1,408	\$ 403,463
1801854195	1,211	\$ 418,300
1003881848	1,025	\$ 236,684
1811084221	924	\$ 212,990
1669494092	887	\$ 322,036
1104822097	811	\$ 417,999
1417922261	647	\$ 158,968
1508835646	594	\$ 254,055
1194824771	586	\$ 233,615
1902878473	581	\$ 148,548

Risperdal (includes generic products), 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1801854195	1,302	\$ 219,228
1801978333	988	\$ 71,616
1962465740	949	\$ 65,948
1194824771	914	\$ 305,676
1811084221	882	\$ 70,174
1669494092	861	\$ 152,461
1104822097	797	\$ 324,948
1003881848	770	\$ 56,420
1700923208	714	\$ 60,116
1023086931	623	\$ 48,831

OxyContin (includes generic products), 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1255327763	99	\$ 36,528
1477643955	71	\$ 16,002
1831289313	40	\$ 7,531
1568552040	35	\$ 6,472
1407814270	32	\$ 2,713
1356312466	24	\$ 6,011
1417963620	*17	\$ 2,734
1659461135	*17	\$ 5,209
1548268592	*17	\$ 2,207
1730166844	*17	\$ 2,803
1437115508	*15	\$ 2,883
1053446047	*15	\$ 2,882
1033180229	*14	\$ 7,394
1407877947	*14	\$ 7,981
1104897009	*13	\$ 3,034
1306814470	*13	\$ 5,805

*Tie(s)

OxyContin (includes generic products), 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1477643955	106	\$ 27,400
1104897099	47	\$ 16,012
1831289313	39	\$ 8,354
1568552040	*32	\$ 4,978
1205923471	*32	\$ 16,216
1083685283	31	\$ 11,030
1861582330	29	\$ 11,804
1356312466	*19	\$ 6,459
1538168505	*19	\$ 4,256
1083704563	18	\$ 3,218
1558460626	*17	\$ 2,823
1467671792	*17	\$ 8,252
1184674608	*15	\$ 3,601
1891834016	*15	\$ 6,180

*Tie(s)

Roxicodone (includes generic products), 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1538137500	396	\$ 61,717
1366620833	257	\$ 27,743
1891772786	229	\$ 35,697
1508915166	178	\$ 21,242
1043300601	89	\$ 926
1326049255	88	\$ 6,904
1033195649	85	\$ 4,587
1770581845	*65	\$ 8,100
1245228543	*65	\$ 5,090
1205055530	59	\$ 611
1942208434	55	\$ 6,108

*Tie

Roxicodone (includes generic products), 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1538137500	467	\$ 79,840
1366620833	425	\$ 46,396
1891772786	197	\$ 29,867
1043300601	120	\$ 1,376
1326049255	114	\$ 9,532
1508915166	111	\$ 14,464
1770581845	108	\$ 12,566
1992924229	92	\$ 1,310
1033195649	*91	\$ 5,778
1063441699	*91	\$ 8,040
1265438782	83	\$ 4,574

*Tie

Xanax (includes generic products), 2008

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1134282999	2,156	\$ 27,124
1023197803	1,986	\$ 38,208
1093797292	1,033	\$ 10,400
1467448837	985	\$ 11,339
1528257003	726	\$ 8,964
1669575569	626	\$ 6,255
1265438782	603	\$ 8,304
1538137500	563	\$ 10,987
1902885015	514	\$ 6,410
1700923208	484	\$ 9,441

Xanax (includes generic products), 2009

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1023197803	2,229	\$ 42,821
1093797292	857	\$ 7,380
1528257003	819	\$ 8,716
1467448837	792	\$ 9,313
1538137500	718	\$ 13,524
1265438782	614	\$ 7,818
1669575569	598	\$ 5,968
1811963325	589	\$ 5,394
1700923208	571	\$ 11,677
1902885015	554	\$ 6,656



Division of Medical Services

P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-401 · Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
501-682-8292 · Fax: 501-682-1197 · TDD: 501-682-6789



May 10, 2010

Dear

In the enclosed letter dated April 21, 2010 from U.S. Senator Charles Grassley, Arkansas Medicaid, as well as all State Medicaid agencies, was asked to provide the requested information on the top ten prescribers for each of those drugs listed.

In compliance with this Congressional request, Arkansas Medicaid has sent the enclosed letter to U.S. Senator Charles Grassley. As a courtesy to you, we wanted to let you know that you are among those top 10 prescribers. We did not personally identify any of the prescribers, but rather listed them by NPI number.

We appreciate your willingness to provide services to the State's Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene I. Gessow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eugene I. Gessow
Director

Enclosures

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6276

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Republican Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

January 23, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Marilyn Strickland
Interim Director, Division of Medical Services
Arkansas Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-401
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

Dear Interim Director Strickland:

On May 4, 2010, the Arkansas Department of Human Services provided my office with data regarding the top ten prescribers of several pain management and mental health drugs in your state. These types of drugs have addictive properties, and the potential for fraud and abuse by prescribers and patients is extremely high. Mental health drugs continue to be prescribed at astounding rates and pain management clinics are turning into a hotbed for black market painkillers. When these drugs are prescribed to Medicaid patients, it is the American people who pay the price for over-prescription, abuse, and fraud.

After an extensive review of prescribing habits of the serial prescribers of pain and mental health drugs in Arkansas, I have concerns about the oversight and enforcement of Medicaid abuse in your state. While I am sensitive to concerns about the potential for misinterpretation of the data you provided, the numbers themselves are quite shocking.

For example, the top two prescribers of Roxicodone and its generic equivalents in 2009 wrote 892 prescriptions for the drug—nearly as much as the remainder of the

top ten list combined. Similarly, the top prescriber for OxyContin prescribed five times the amount as prescribers as the bottom of the list. These outliers are consistent with several of the antipsychotic drugs as well—with the top prescribers writing double or triple the number of prescriptions as the other prescribers on the list.

It is my intention to ensure that each of the states is adequately monitoring, investigating, and stopping fraud and over-prescription of these types of drugs. Therefore, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. What action, if any, has your agency taken with respect to the prescribers identified to the Committee?
2. If there has been no action taken with respect to these prescribers, please explain why not.
3. Please identify which of the providers identified to the Committee remain eligible to bill the Medicaid Program.
4. Please provide the 2010 and 2011 numbers for the top prescribers of these same drugs.
5. Has each of these prescribers been cross-checked for complaints or misconduct with the state medical board or the National Practitioner Data Bank? If not, do you plan to do so?
6. Have any of the prescribers identified to this Committee been referred to your state medical board?
7. Is there any system set up in your state to identify and monitor excessive prescription writing? If not, why not?
8. Have you received any training or guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies to help identify potential issues with prescription drugs?
9. Does your state maintain a database of all prescribed controlled-substances? If so, what entities have access to it?
10. Does your state have any point-of-sale restrictions related to maximum units, prior authorization, therapeutic duplication, or early refill? If not, why not?
11. Were any of these top ten prescribers identified in the federal-mandated Drug Utilization Review or CMS-base retrospective reviews?
12. Does your state have any programs in place to educate providers about the prescription of antipsychotics to children and adolescents?

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention in this matter. When responding to this letter, please number your answers in accordance with my questions. I would appreciate a response by February 13, 2012. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erika Smith of my staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "C" and "G".

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



Arkansas Department of Human Services

Division of Medical Services



P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-401
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

Fax: 501-682-1197

TDD: 501-682-6789

Internet Website: www.medicaid.state.ar.us

February --, 2012

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Dear Senator Grassley:

This letter is in response to your request for information dated January 23, 2012. The requested responses are included in the attached document along with the total claims for the top10 prescribers in calendar year 2010 and 2011 of Abilify, Geodon, Seroquel, Zyprexa, Risperdal, Oxycontin, Roxicodone and Xanax as well as their generic equivalents.

I hope this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

Andy Allison
Director

cc'd:

Mike Beebe, Arkansas Governor
Jennifer Finn, Governor's Office
Sen. John Boozman
Sen. Mark Pryor
Rep. Tim Griffin
Rep. Steve Womack
Rep. Mike Ross
Rep. Rick Crawford
John Selig, Director, ADHS
Janie Huddleston, Deputy Director, ADHS

Joseph Thompson, Arkansas Surgeon General

Tamara Sampson, CMS

Jennifer Gallaher, DBHS

1. What action, if any, has your agency taken with respect to the prescribers identified to the Committee?

Efforts to address appropriate prescribing of atypical antipsychotic agents (e.g., Geodon®, Seroquel, Abilify®, Zyprexa®, Risperdal®), opioid drugs (e.g., OxyContin®, and Roxicodone®), and benzodiazepine (e.g., Xanax®) have been accomplished through establishing clear policies for improved patient safety and appropriate prescribing by all prescribers. These policies are described in answers to subsequent questions below. The state's focus, to date has been on educating the provider through clinical criteria and quantity limits and DUR rather than targeting specific prescribers for sanction. Nevertheless, over half of the top ten prescribers have received letters from the states Drug Utilization Review Process.

The state's efforts have had a significant impact. Over the last two years since the new policies and educational process have been in place the Medicaid program has seen a 78.6% decrease in antipsychotic claims for children less than 5 years of age and a 10.7% drop in claims for beneficiaries under 18 years of age in the past two years.

2. If there has been no action taken with respect to these prescribers, please explain why not.

Please refer to responses above.

3. Please identify which of the providers identified to the Committee remain eligible to bill the Medicaid Program.

One of the physicians included in the list of prescribers is deceased and four other physicians are no longer enrolled.

4. Please provide the 2010 and 2011 numbers for the top prescribers of these same drugs.

Abilify, 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
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Abilify, 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
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1669494092	1,162	\$	568,954
1083675441	1,076	\$	572,379
1588692453	877	\$	415,138
1104822097	675	\$	328,404
1750373395	550	\$	298,930
1659324291	538	\$	326,011
1427144005	536	\$	218,048
1003881848	529	\$	230,498
1952383820	490	\$	287,885
1811084221	481	\$	224,857

1588692453	893	\$	496,728
1669494092	825	\$	429,772
1104822097	738	\$	401,561
1679796403	684	\$	348,459
1083675441	665	\$	388,782
1518098714	553	\$	316,477
1013960707	531	\$	339,391
1952383820	481	\$	294,944
1255522611	477	\$	269,003
1750373395	446	\$	252,986

Geodon, 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1750373395	326	\$ 156,170
1134212947	281	\$ 77,144
1588692453	278	\$ 95,415
1104822097	275	\$ 111,658
1417936147	170	\$ 86,635
1023197803	166	\$ 81,600
1437121373	164	\$ 92,175
1992824148	142	\$ 41,204
1063515948	137	\$ 69,663
1255522611	130	\$ 40,820

Geodon, 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1750373395	329	\$ 165,828
1104822097	306	\$ 124,391
1588692453	199	\$ 84,966
1023197803	153	\$ 76,732
1134212947	152	\$ 52,233
1477617918	136	\$ 62,033
1255522611	129	\$ 40,854
1427144005	123	\$ 48,377
1417936147	121	\$ 61,174
1063515948	117	\$ 60,964

Seroquel, 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1902878473	868	\$ 275,174
1669494092	666	\$ 259,469
1104822097	578	\$ 200,073
1083675441	557	\$ 232,214
1588692453	532	\$ 172,949
1790846947	511	\$ 189,267
1194824771	469	\$ 197,523
1477617918	438	\$ 89,114
1952383820	434	\$ 195,076
1417922261	413	\$ 120,306

Seroquel, 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1902878473	709	\$ 281,081
1477617918	473	\$ 130,783
1083675441	458	\$ 215,517
1962465740	438	\$ 152,280
1588692453	373	\$ 144,113
1215978770	361	\$ 244,803
1194753046	358	\$ 181,571
1255522611	346	\$ 114,835
1770501637	*323	\$ 154,531
1104822097	*323	\$ 137,376
1790846947	318	\$ 111,596

*Tie

Zyprexa, 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1215978770	423	\$ 371,097
1669494092	340	\$ 268,782
1194824771	310	\$ 198,789
1770651408	217	\$ 162,575
1790846947	169	\$ 15,572
1417936147	160	\$ 116,143
1801854195	148	\$ 101,479
1801042247	143	\$ 107,094
1508835646	142	\$ 118,258
1427013846	138	\$ 61,737

Zyprexa (includes generic products), 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1215978770	276	\$ 255,946
1790846947	206	\$ 9,331
1770651408	184	\$ 168,938
1508835646	179	\$ 172,724
1245290816	156	\$ 158,818
1801042247	150	\$ 160,964
1073582748	*146	\$ 126,617
1437300712	*146	\$ 147,557
1053328955	*146	\$ 83,514
1275558918	130	\$ 72,709
1669494092	128	\$ 113,982
1881803203	127	\$ 123,950

*Tie

Risperdal (includes generic products), 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1902878473	1,390	\$ 73,000
1962465740	1,122	\$ 37,013
1801854195	1,011	\$ 71,719
1811084221	1,005	\$ 40,949
1801978333	787	\$ 32,991
1003881848	760	\$ 28,975
1194824771	740	\$ 254,824
1669494092	722	\$ 70,820
1023086931	670	\$ 38,478
1417922261	589	\$ 35,971

Risperdal (includes generic products), 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1902878473	1,781	\$ 54,559
1962465740	1,200	\$ 31,785
1811084221	999	\$ 31,270
1003881848	952	\$ 26,497
1801854195	700	\$ 39,685
1477617918	628	\$ 21,872
1104822097	616	\$ 117,502
1225261282	573	\$ 44,840
1083675441	545	\$ 18,070
1801042247	528	\$ 89,111

OxyContin (includes generic products), 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1477643955	52	\$ 15,011
1861582330	50	\$ 24,828
1710935762	38	\$ 12,053
1346472669	35	\$ 5,089
1205923471	33	\$ 20,811
1053426304	30	\$ 7,188
1083685283	29	\$ 17,539
1760478903	26	\$ 8,348
1467671792	25	\$ 16,865
1568552040	23	\$ 4,621

OxyContin (includes generic products), 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1477643955	39	\$ 17,282
1205923471	35	\$ 25,509
1346472669	33	\$ 6,005
1861582330	32	\$ 15,723
1053426304	29	\$ 5,234
1558362921	27	\$ 6,436
1760478903	25	\$ 7,616
1083685283	24	\$ 24,489
1417969478	22	\$ 1,427
1255327763	21	\$ 6,285

Roxicodone (includes generic products), 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1730252289	452	\$ 33,420
1366620833	340	\$ 24,133
1538137500	222	\$ 20,662
1326049255	187	\$ 9,637
1043300601	153	\$ 1,709
1891772786	127	\$ 10,769
1770581845	116	\$ 9,351
1811090848	*109	\$ 7,380
1326028440	*109	\$ 6,576
1033195649	108	\$ 7,549
1346208527	94	\$ 6,069

*Tie

Roxicodone (includes generic products), 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1730252289	855	\$ 69,635
1326049255	192	\$ 8,234
1518014729	184	\$ 14,477
1811090848	164	\$ 8,839
1043300601	136	\$ 1,622
1346208527	127	\$ 5,754
1689682353	122	\$ 6,737
1326028440	110	\$ 5,592
1770581845	101	\$ 6,618
1033195649	98	\$ 3,859

Xanax (includes generic products), 2010

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1023197803	2,107	\$ 41,291
1588692453	789	\$ 10,985
1467448837	774	\$ 8,712
1528257003	717	\$ 7,954
1134282999	688	\$ 8,090
1902885015	671	\$ 8,037
1093797292	605	\$ 4,735
1154423846	582	\$ 7,664
1669575569	559	\$ 7,810
1407810641	544	\$ 6,336

Xanax (includes generic products), 2011

Perscriber Identifier	Total Claims	Total Paid Amount
1023197803	1,713	\$ 31,124
1164482592	1,309	\$ 12,532
1902885015	853	\$ 10,319
1407810641	840	\$ 10,264
1588692453	733	\$ 10,078
1225036817	701	\$ 8,766
1790749943	694	\$ 7,765
1134282999	671	\$ 8,137
1730252289	644	\$ 8,360
1467448837	622	\$ 7,089

5. Has each of these prescribers been cross-checked for complaints or misconduct with the state medical board or the National Practitioner Data Bank? If not, do you plan to do so?

The Medicaid Pharmacy Program has not initiated such a cross-check, and does not currently have plans to do so.

6. Have any of the prescribers identified to this Committee been referred to your state medical board?

One of the prescribers had his medical license revoked for a brief period of time by the Medical Board but this was not due to a referral by Arkansas Medicaid.

7. Is there any system set up in your state to identify and monitor excessive prescription writing? If not, why not?
Please refer to #9.
8. Have you received any training or guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies to help identify potential issues with prescription drugs?
No.
9. Does your state maintain a database of all prescribed controlled-substances? If so, what entities have access to it?

On March 17, 2011 Governor Mike Beebe signed bill SB345, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, into law. It will become operational by March 1, 2013 as long as funding is secured. This system will include all controlled medication prescriptions dispensed for Arkansas residents. The law stipulates that providers (physicians and pharmacists) and law enforcement will have access to the system. The Department of Health will be responsible for reviewing the information to identify misuse and abuse patterns and will contact practitioners and dispensers as related to the person identified.

10. Does your state have any point-of-sale restrictions related to maximum units, prior authorization, therapeutic duplication, or early refill? If not, why not?
 - a) Antipsychotic medications
 - i. 2009 – manual review introduced for all children <5 years of age; quantity limits and therapeutic duplication edits; quantity limits and therapeutic duplication edits were added for children < 18 years of age
 - ii. 2011 – changed manual review for children to <6 years of age; require metabolic labs and informed consent for <18yo
 - b) Opioids
 - i. 2005 – criteria was added to transmucosal fentanyl products to only allow them to pay at point of sale for recipients with a malignant cancer diagnosis
 - ii. 2008 – quantity edits were added to solid, oral short-acting opioids to allow up to 6 units per day; quantity edits were added to long-acting opioids to limit the lower strength quantities through dose optimization; edits were added to allow only one short-acting opioid and one long-acting opioid prescription at one time (therapeutic duplication); an edit was added to reject opioid claims with history of Subutex or Suboxone paid claims history
 - iii. 2009 – an edit was added to require a manual review of all solid, oral short-acting opioids for recipients <6 years of age; tramadol was added to the list of short-acting opioids for therapeutic duplication editing

- iv. 2011 - injectable and nasal spray opioid formulations were added to the short-acting opioid therapeutic duplication list; daily and monthly quantity limits were also added on these formulations
- c) Benzodiazepines
 - i. 2010 - quantity edits on solid, oral benzodiazepines were added to allow for 124 units per the previous 31 calendar days (four units per day) among all benzodiazepine prescriptions
The quantity limits on the benzodiazepine drug class have successfully trended the vast majority of the high daily doses downward showing a dramatic decrease in the number of beneficiaries who exceed the quantity limit. For those beneficiaries who do require higher doses than the edits allow, for example those beneficiaries who are on certain benzodiazepines for seizure control, PA's have been entered on a month-to-month basis, working with the physicians as the physicians try to titrate the daily dose downward while switching to other medications.
- d) ADD/ADHD
 - i. 2003 – an edit was added to require a manual review for all requests for recipients <5 years of age
 - ii. 2006 – quantity edits and therapeutic duplication edits were added
 - iii. 2011 – an edit was required for manual review for requests for ADD/ADHD medications for recipients >18 years of age; a 6 month post edit review showed a decrease of adult use by 42%.

The early refill policy on controlled drugs was implemented on November 1, 2003 and requires the requesting pharmacist to fax a copy of the original prescription in history and a copy of the new prescription to document the prescriber has increased the dose. Each request is manually reviewed before the request is approved or denied. The early refill policy for non-controlled drugs allows pharmacists to override and refill the prescription after 75% of the days' supply has elapsed.

11. Were any of these top ten prescribers identified in the federal-mandated Drug Utilization Review or CMS-base retrospective reviews?

55% of the top 10 providers received letters from RDUR pertaining to those drugs.

12. Does your state have any programs in place to educate providers about the prescription of antipsychotics to children and adolescents?

Yes, in addition to clinical system edits and the requirement for informed consent and metabolic lab testing for antipsychotic in children less than 18 years of age, the RDUR has criteria which pertains to the antipsychotic class and educational intervention letters are mailed to providers as appropriate. RDUR educational

newsletters have also been sent to providers regarding the antipsychotic drugs. In addition, Arkansas Medicaid contracts with the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC), the Arkansas Quality Improvement Organization, for Quality Improvement and Provider Relations. As one of our quality improvement activities, AFMC is educating prescribers of antipsychotics about the need for the informed consent and metabolic lab testing prior to prescribing and the required process for Medicaid coverage.